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Legacy - December 2020

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Legacy

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology

A Mystery Object from Mississippi

By Chester B. DePratter, Director of Research

In 1976, I first became interested in Hernando de Soto and the expedition he led through the Southeast when I was just beginning work on my Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. In the 44 years that have passed since then, my friends and

colleagues, Charles Hudson and Marvin Smith, and I have published papers on the 1539-1543 route that Soto and his men took from their landing in Tampa Bay, Florida, to the departure of the expedition survivors down the Mississippi River

MYSTERY ARTIFACT, See Page 4



Figure 1: The mystery artifact found on Stark Farm near Starkville, Mississippi. (Photo by John Fisher)

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Director's Notes

By Steven D. Smith
SCIAA Director

The last issue of *Legacy*, Vol. 24, No. 1, September 2020, I mentioned that our Maritime Research Division (MRD) had lost team member Nate Fulmer due to a long-planned move north. Archaeologist and diver Ryan Bradley then told us he had accepted a position with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). This Department of Defense agency seeks to recover the remains of lost servicemen from overseas conflicts. We can hardly blame Ryan for accepting this unique and outstanding opportunity. He will be based in Germany and coordinate search and recovery efforts between DPAA teams and various host countries during underwater and terrestrial operation. Sounds like a great job and an important one.

Dean Lacy Ford, College of Arts and Sciences immediately recognized the seriousness of losing two employees in the division that oversees the South Carolina Underwater Antiquities Act and approved the search for replacements for both positions ASAP. I am thrilled to announce that the first of our new underwater archaeologists, William "Will" Nassif, arrived December 1, 2020.

Will was born in Durham, North Carolina, and spent most of his childhood



Figure 1: Welcome Will Nassif. (Photo by Caroline Brower)



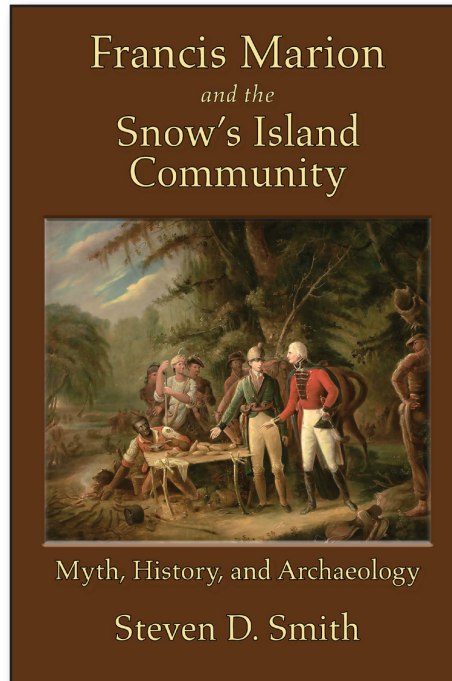
Figure 2: Will Nassif surveying a WWII wreck at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands (Photo by Jason Nunn)

between there and Cary, NC. He received a B.A. in History with a minor in Accounting from Appalachian State University. After college, he returned to the Triangle and taught at Athens Drive High School for two years, where he also coached the school's football and lacrosse teams. Building on his childhood love of North Carolina's rivers and coastline, he returned to higher education seeking an M.A. in East Carolina University's Program in Maritime Studies. His thesis research into the historic Pamlico River port of Washington examined the relationship between port infrastructure technology and economic trends. Along with his excursions into the Pamlico River, he has conducted maritime archaeological surveys at several other Tar/Pamlico River sites, shipwrecks off the NC coast, military equipment in the Marshall Islands, and terrestrial surveys on the Outer Banks. He looks forward to protecting South Carolina's maritime heritage. We are excited to have Will on board.

We are actively interviewing candidates for the second position even as I write this. We hope to have that position occupied soon after the new year. Meanwhile, see the article in this issue by James Spirek on the division's appearance on National Geographic TV series *Drain the Oceans*. It provides a behind the scenes look at how the 'sausage is made' in TV documentaries.

Coming in January!

Francis Marion *and the* Snow's Island Community
Myth, History, and Archaeology



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Steven D. Smith, Ph.D.

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Archaeology and Anthropology
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Figure 2: Titian painting, *The Emperor Charles V at Muhlburg*, 1548, of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, and Charles I, King of Spain. (Prado Museum, Madrid)

to Mexico. Charles Hudson used our collaborative work as the basis for his single-authored book, *Knights of Spain, Warriors of the Sun*, published in 1998.

Regular readers of *Legacy*, will know that several of us here at SCIAA, including current Director, Steve Smith, former Director, Charlie Cobb, Jim Legg, and me, have been working on a potential Soto-related site at Stark Farm near Starkville, Mississippi (See *Legacy* December 2015, July 2016, December 2017, July 2019, December 2019). We believe that the area around Starkville was home to the chiefdom of Chicaça whose residents were the ancestors of the modern Chickasaw. Brad Lieb, archaeologist for the Chickasaw Nation, is part of our Mississippi research team, and our funding for this long-term project has been regularly provided by the Chickasaw Nation.

Soto and his men spent the winter of 1540/1541 at Chicaça. The local Indians attacked and burned Soto's first encampment, killing many Spaniards and horses, as well as hundreds of pigs. Soto

and his men moved to another location the day after the attack, leaving behind equipment and gear damaged when their houses were burned. The Spaniards were at these two camps for a total of about five months. Our work in Mississippi has been focused on finding one or both of these camps. Using metal detectors, we have found a collection of metal artifacts that we believe were scavenged from one of these camps by the Indians of Chicaça. Many of the items we have found were modified to make tools, including celts, scrapers, and awls. Several other objects appear to be essentially unaltered, probably 16th century European objects, including axe fragments, nails, a ramrod tip, and a small cannon ball.

When we were last in Mississippi in November 2019, I found an interesting object about 900 meters from the site where most of our collection had been found (this artifact was first noted in the December 2019 *Legacy*). On a wet day when I was unable to walk into our detecting site, Brad Lieb suggested that I work in an

area where he had collected Chickasaw pottery about 50 meters from where we parked that day. Jim Legg paced off a 10-meter sample square for me to detect, and then the rest of the crew walked into our planned search area. I covered the 10-meter sample carefully, and I found only a single item other than recently discarded wire, cans, nails, etc.

This artifact (Figure 1) is a sheet copper alloy disk about 50 millimeters in diameter, embossed with a floral motif around its margin and with a gold cross in its center. It has a hole in its center for attachment using a brad or rivet. On its back side it was reinforced with lead alloy fill, and it originally had a bar cast into the fill through which a strap would have been passed. Jim Legg, our artifact identification expert, identified it as a horse harness ornament, probably a "bit boss," but he did not know if it was 16th century or 18th century. We were intrigued by the gold cross with trilobed bars, and we suspected that it might be Spanish, but we could not say for sure.

In lectures over the last four decades, I have often used a slide of Titian's 1548 painting of Charles V, who was Holy Roman Emperor and King Charles I of Spain, to illustrate what Hernando de Soto might have looked like as he led his expedition across the southeastern United States (Figure 2). Soto had armor that he wore in major battles with southeastern Indians, and as a wealthy man, he would have had proper ornamentation for his horse, just as Charles V did. If one looks carefully at the bit in Charles V's horse's mouth, one can see a circular ornament much like the one I found in Mississippi (Figure 3). Closer examination shows that this object appears to be embossed, and its entire surface is covered in gold. The ornament is very much like the one I found in Mississippi. The Mississippi object has a gold cross that we believe was applied as powdered gold mixed with mercury, the "amalgam" method of gold plating that was certainly in use in the mid-16th century. The triple lobes at the ends of each cross bar make it "look" Spanish.

To date, we have contacted several



Figure 3: Close-up from Titian painting showing a harness ornament similar to our Mississippi find. (Prado Museum, Madrid)

archaeologists working on 16th-century sites in the southeastern and southwestern U.S., but none of them can say definitively that this was an artifact of the Soto era, though several believe that it is. While the manufacturing technique of an embossed brass face with lead alloy fill was in use in the 18th century, we have been unable to determine how early that method was used. None of our contacts has rejected the artifact entirely as certainly of a later date. We have begun reaching out to authorities in England and Spain for help with identification, and we await information from those sources. The artifact was found shortly *after* we had submitted our entire Stark Farm collection of “early” metal artifacts for Portable X-ray Fluorescence (pxrf) elemental analysis, so it has not yet been tested by that method. However, once we have elemental information on the copper alloy and lead alloy components,

there will remain the problem of finding 16th century objects with previously established metal sources to compare them to. This is a more general problem with our Stark Farm collection; while we now

have an impressive set of elemental data for most of the collection, we lack coherent baselines of comparative data that would tell us something about age and the geographic origins of the metals. A lead isotope test might be useful, as there is already a fairly good baseline of major lead sources in Europe and North America. A finding of Spanish or German lead would strongly suggest a 16th century origin, while English or Virginia lead would dash our hopes.

At the present time, we can say that we have a potential 16th century object that may have been associated with the Soto expedition. Finding the object was the beginning of a process meant to figure out what this object is, where it came from, how it ended up in Mississippi, and whether we can ultimately identify it as a Soto-related item. This is the way archaeology works. The pure serendipity of this find is another example of how chance sometimes plays a role in our work. On a rainy day when I had a bad hip, Brad Lieb knew of a place near the gate where he had found pottery of the right period. Jim Legg put in a 10-meter square in that area for me to detect, and that square happened to fall right around the unusual object I found with my metal detector. There are tens of thousands of other 10-meter squares on Stark Farm that have not been detected, but on that day in November 2019, I ended up in what might be a very important 10-meter square.



Figure 4: The Mississippi crew at Stark Farm. (Left to right) James Legg, Charlie Cobb, Chester DePratter, Brad Lieb, Steve Smith, and John Lieb (volunteer). (Photo by James Legg)

Research

Small Arms Evidence from the Siege of Star Fort, 1781

By James Legg

In the previous issue of *Legacy*, I discussed the artillery-related material from our research at Star Fort, at Ninety Six National Historic Site in Greenwood County, SC (*Legacy* September 2020). In this article, I will discuss our findings related to small arms and small arms ammunition at Star Fort. For those who missed the earlier coverage of the Star Fort project, some essential context is repeated here.

In the Spring and Summer of 1781, American Southern commander Nathanael Greene led a successful campaign to eject the British and their Loyalist American allies from their posts in the interior of South Carolina. Nearly all of the British posts were either captured or evacuated during that campaign, including the three most important fortified towns of Camden and Ninety Six, South Carolina and Augusta, Georgia. On May 22, 1781, Greene's army lay siege to the post of Ninety Six. The strongest component in the defenses of Ninety Six was a large earthwork called Star Fort. The major American effort during the 29-day effort to capture Ninety Six was a formal, systematic siege approach against Star Fort



Figure 2: Gun parts excavated in Star Fort. (A) British trade gun butt plate, modified; (B) French musket front barrel band; (C) French carbine, middle barrel band and sling swivel; (D) British musket rear ramrod pipe. (Plate by John Fisher and Tim Pieper)



Figure 1: A 2019 excavation unit placed to examine parapet revetment and fire step architecture. This unit was located immediately behind the heavily contested parapet of Star Fort, and it produced a large and varied sample of small arms ammunition. (Photo by James Legg)

from the north. By June 18th, the Americans were entrenched along the north ditch of Star Fort, but a large relief force of British regular troops was on its way to break the siege. Greene decided to risk a direct assault on Star Fort before giving up the siege, but the attack was repulsed. Greene ended the siege and withdrew the following day, but the British soon decided that the post of Ninety Six was too exposed to be maintained, and they evacuated the site.

In 2018 and 2019, SCIAA Director Steve Smith conducted USC "Maymester" archaeological field schools in and around Star Fort (Figure 1) (see *Legacy* July 2018, July 2019). The work included formal excavation units and an array of metal detector sample areas. We were able

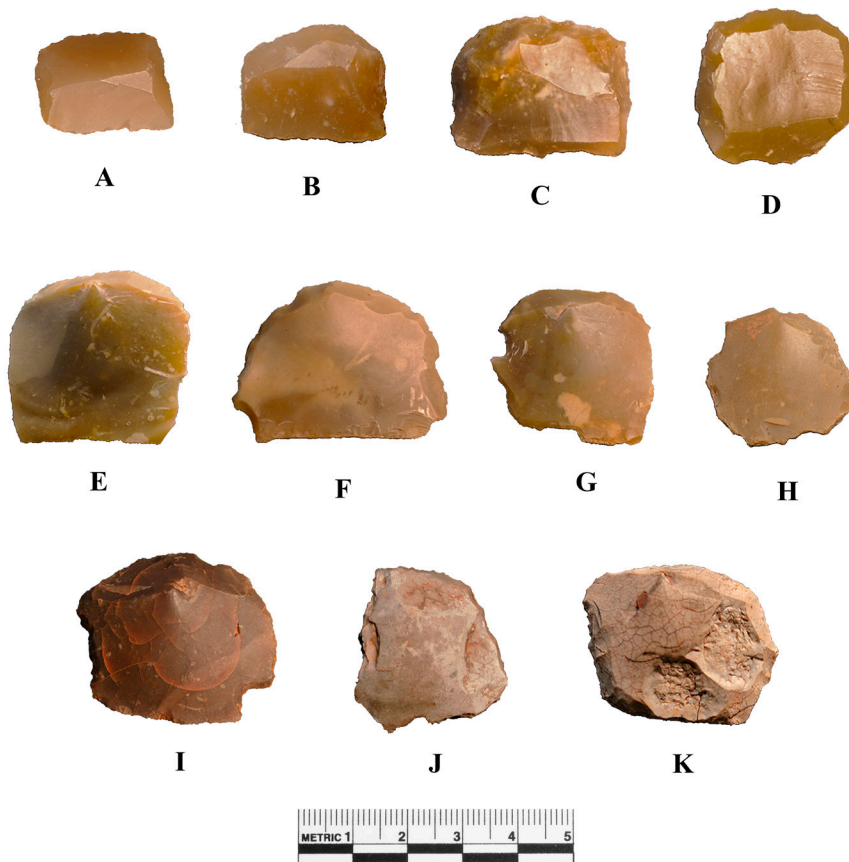


Figure 3: Gunflints excavated in Star Fort. (A to D) French blade flints; (E to H) French spalls; (I to K) French spalls, burned. (Plate by John Fisher and Tim Pieper)

to document meaningful architectural information and recovered an extensive sample of 1781 siege material. Our draft report covering both seasons of the project was submitted to the National Park Service in August 2020. The artifact assemblage from the Star Fort battlefield is, of course, essentially two assemblages, including that derived from the fort itself, and the collection from the larger siege battlefield. With the important exception of fired projectiles, these two groups of material generally represent the Loyalist defenders and the American besiegers, respectively. The bulk of our collection is from both excavation and metal detecting in Star Fort itself, with a much smaller collection from metal detecting outside the fort across the larger siege landscape.

Interpretation of the small arms material from Star Fort battlefield requires consideration of the various units involved and informed speculation regarding what arms they may have used. Specific documentation of small arms is rare for

this period, which makes a well-defined collection such as that from Star Fort all the more significant. The defenders of Star Fort were mostly Royal Provincial infantry from two regiments, including DeLancey's New York Regiment and the New Jersey Volunteer Regiment. Provincial units were essentially regular British units recruited from among American Loyalists. Provincials were nominally armed, equipped, and supplied in the same fashion as regular British troops, and the records of arms issues to Provincial troops indicate that that was indeed the case. This suggests that the archeological expressions of Provincial arms and ammunition should be indistinguishable from those of British regulars, with both forces using .75 caliber Long or Short Pattern Land Muskets firing a single ball of about .690 inches in diameter. The remainder of the Star Fort garrison appears to have been Loyalist militia, at least some of whom were skilled riflemen. The British plan for the reconquest of

the Southern Colonies in 1780 included a large supply of regular British arms for the use of Loyalist militia. Most of this supply was lost at sea, however, and for the remainder of the Southern Campaign, the British relied substantially on French small arms captured from the Americans to arm Southern Loyalists. Small numbers of French muskets were also issued to regular British units in lieu of regulation infantry fusils, or light muskets, which were carried by NCOs and officers. Militia in the backcountry, on both sides, often carried their personal arms, which were most often rifles. In summary, we might guess from historical sources alone that the defenders of Star Fort wielded primarily .75 caliber Land Pattern British muskets, along with smaller numbers of .69 caliber French muskets and civilian rifles of various lighter calibers.

Nathanael Greene's Continentals at Star Fort were very likely uniformly armed with .69 caliber French muskets. That arm had been the Continental standard since 1778, and by 1780, even many militia units were armed with French muskets. The corresponding standard American cartridge employed a "buck and ball" load, including three buckshot and a musket ball about .640 inches in diameter. The non-Continental with Greene at Ninety Six were miscellaneous militia units that included riflemen armed with an array of civilian rifles, and probably others with various British, French, and civilian arms. When a quantity of new Indian trade guns was captured during the concurrent Augusta campaign, Greene reserved them for issue to the militia.

While ammunition (below) is the primary material evidence for the use of various arms in Star Fort, the collection includes a small array of identifiable gun parts (Figure 2). A British musket is represented by a brass, rear ramrod pipe, probably from a Long or Short Land Pattern .75 caliber musket of the sort that would have been used by Loyalist Provincials (Figure 2D). Although they are not gun parts, we also recovered three examples of the diagnostic brass hardware from the leather bayonet scabbard used

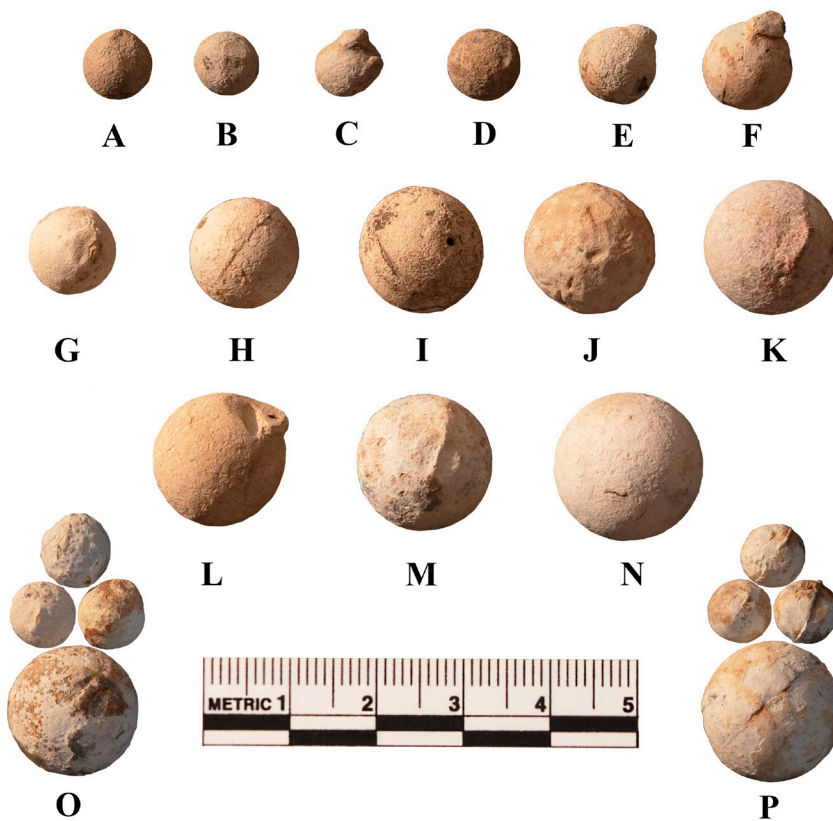


Figure 4: A sample of un-fired lead shot from within Star Fort. (A to D) Buckshot; (E) Large buckshot; (F to H) Probable rifle balls; (I to L) Probable fusil or carbine balls; (M) .69 caliber musket ball; (N) .75 caliber musket ball; (O) Probable fusil or carbine buck and ball load; (P) .69 caliber musket buck and ball load. (Plate by John Fisher and Tim Pieper)

with the British musket bayonet. An iron front band/nose cap indicates a .69 caliber French musket, probably a Model 1763 or later pattern, a weapon likely captured from the Americans earlier in the campaign and issued to someone in Star Fort (Figure 2B). Another captured French arm is represented by a brass, middle barrel band with a sling swivel from a Model 1763/66 carbine of .65 or .67 caliber (Figure 2C). The brass butt plate in Figure 2A was originally part of a British Type "G" Indian trade gun or trade fusil. While such inexpensive guns were certainly in common use in the Carolina backcountry, this example has been re-worked, with the ornamental tang heavily trimmed, and the width of the plate narrowed to fit a much more gracile stock. This suggests that the butt plate may have been re-used in the manufacture or repair of a rifle. Three other small, less diagnostic gun parts were found inside Star Fort, including a metal screw of appropriate size for a musket side plate, a wood screw of appropriate size

for a trigger guard, and an iron stock pin and tenon from some sort of pin-mounted barrel.

Eleven gun flints were recovered in Star Fort, representing the two types most commonly found in Revolutionary War context (Figure 3). Four are French blade flints of characteristically high-quality material that is commonly characterized as "honey colored." French flints are common on British sites, where they were acquired by capture or purchased from secondary suppliers. The other seven flints are French spalls of matte, light brown flint, although three are badly burned and have lost their original color. These spalls are very similar to flints from British context that we have seen from Fort Watson, Fort Motte, and the British garrison at Camden, all in South Carolina. A range of sizes is seen among the 11 flints, including examples small enough for rifle use and others large enough for musket use.

Gun parts are relatively rare recoveries, and some significant project collections

include none at all. Most often the archaeological expression of battlefield small arms use is comprised overwhelmingly of fired and unfired ammunition, effectively the proxy artifacts for the small arms originally employed on a site. Of course, they are more than that, as they also indicate the origins and the targets of fire on the battlefield. The small arms projectiles used in the Siege of Ninety Six (and in the Revolutionary War generally) are confined to lead or lead alloy spheres. This might suggest that our archeological collections of ammunition from the Star Fort battlefield are generic and comprised of specimens that are poorly diagnostic. In fact, a careful and informed analysis can derive a great deal of information from such collections. Diameter is the most important attribute in such an analysis; for all lead shot, fired and unfired, "projected diameter" values can be calculated based on weight. The details of a given analysis can vary depending on the historical and archeological characteristics of a site. In the case of the Star Fort collections, I have utilized six size categories as the most useful breakdown for lead shot analysis. This includes two size ranges for buckshot, a likely range for rifle balls, a range for fusil or carbine balls, and ranges for .69 and .75 caliber musket balls, respectively. These categories are imperfect and require a degree of arbitrary cutoff where



Figure 5: A .69 caliber buck and ball load found *in situ* behind the parapet of Star Fort. (Photo by James Legg)

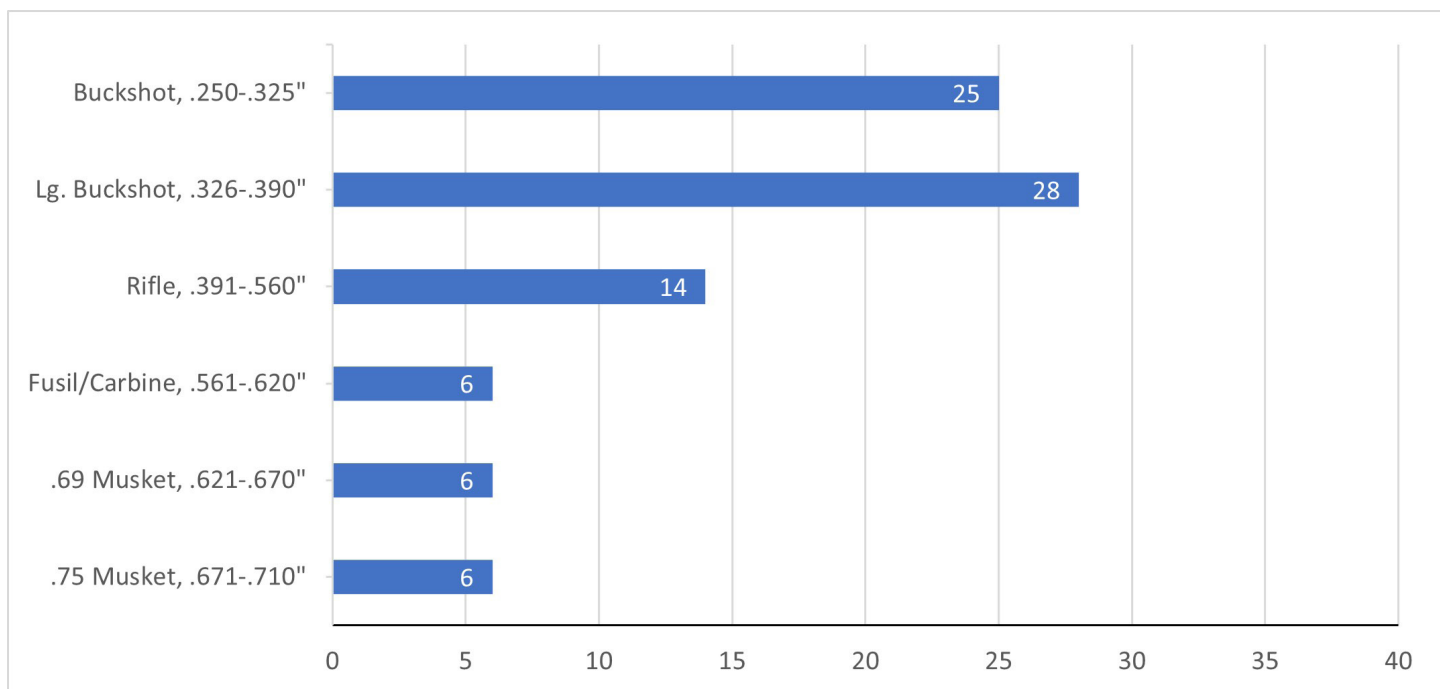


Figure 6: Unfired lead shot from within Star Fort. (Table by James Legg and Tim Pieper)

the functional categories would actually overlap. Fortunately, I was reasonably equipped to deal with such questions, having previously analyzed thousands of lead shot from a wide array of contexts from 26 different Southern Campaign sites.

The unfired lead shot from inside Star Fort is, of course, a strong reflection of what weapons were present in the fort

(Figures 4 and 6). Combined with what we know and can infer from the history, and with the other arms artifacts discussed above, we have a fairly clear picture of what was carried by the defenders. Our work inside Star Fort, including both formal excavation and metal detecting, produced 85 unfired lead shot. These included six examples each of fusil or

carbine balls, .69 caliber musket balls, and .75 caliber musket balls. It should be noted that there was an imbalance in collection method favoring the large balls, given that metal detecting yielded three large, unfired lead shot, but no buckshot at all. Clearly, we were not detecting smaller lead shot that were indeed present, indicating a serious recovery problem with our metal

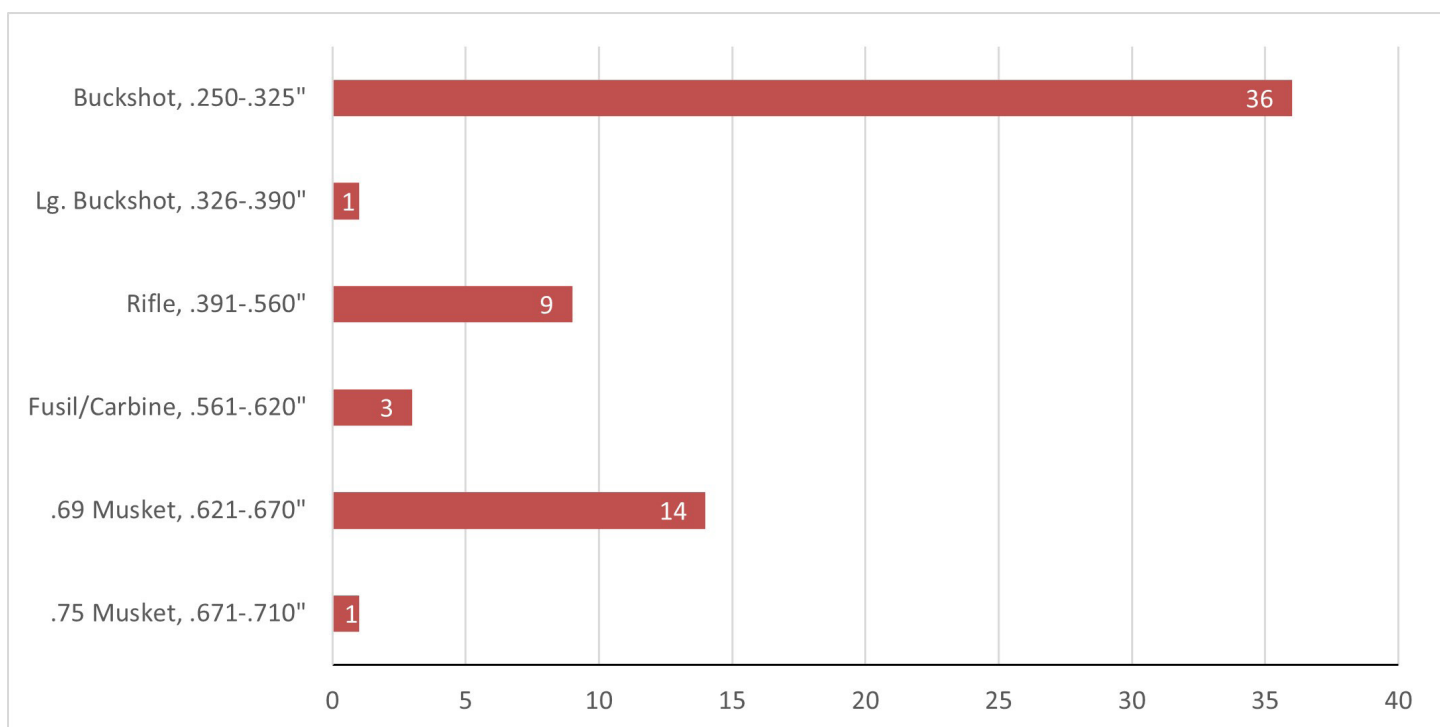


Figure 7: Fired lead shot from within Star Fort. (Table by James Legg and Tim Pieper)

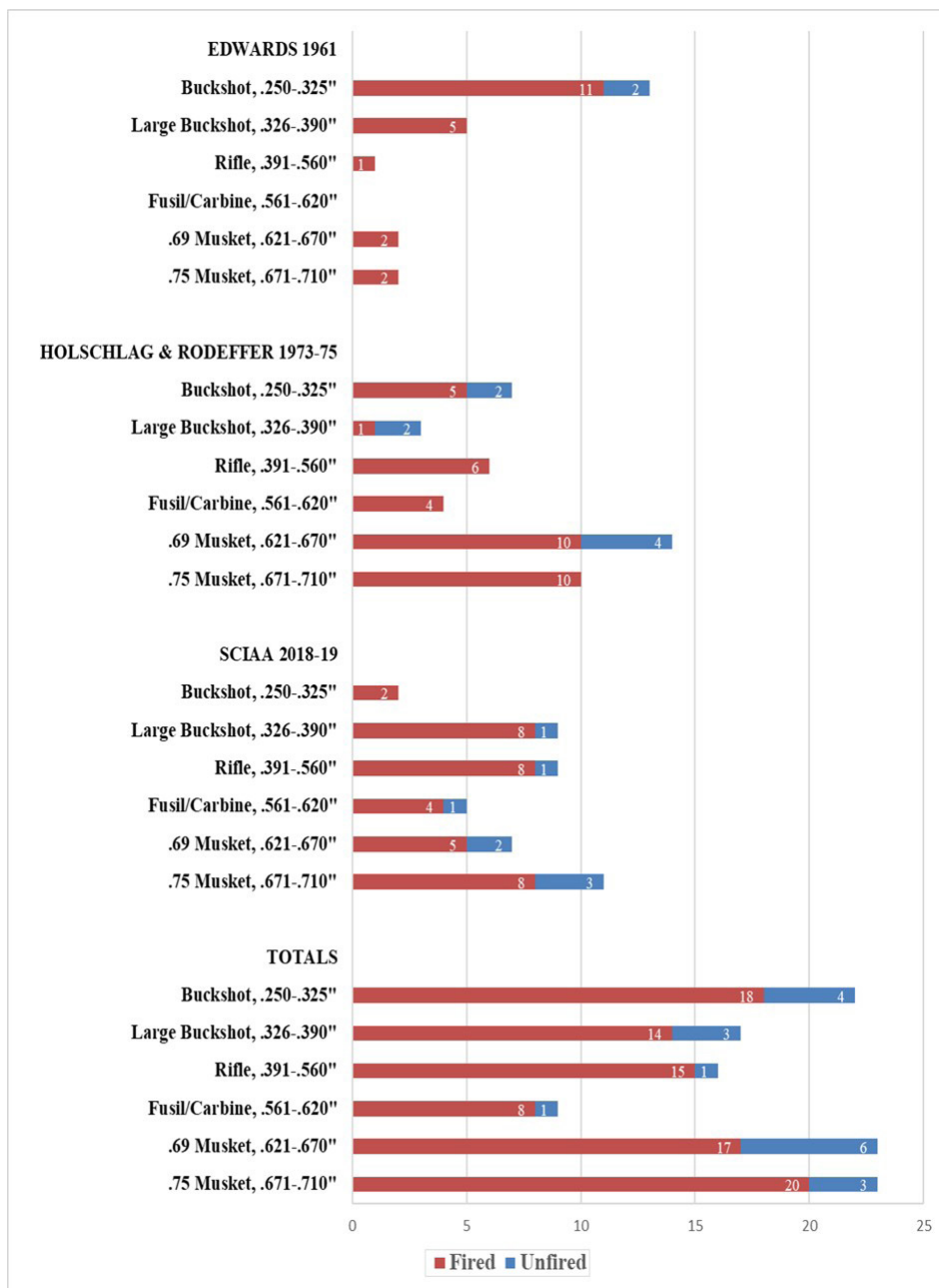


Figure 8: Lead shot collections from outside of Star Fort. (Table by James Legg and Tim Pieper)

detecting (below). The 25 smaller buckshot that derived from excavation units only were of a size appropriate for .69 caliber buck and ball cartridges, with three buckshot to each cartridge, and we have good evidence for the use of buck and ball by the defenders of Star Fort. Figures 4P and 5 illustrate a .69 caliber buck and ball load that was found *in situ* deep in an excavation unit behind the parapet of Star Fort. The carbine or fusil caliber buck and ball load in Figure 4O was also recovered together and indicates that at least some of the smaller caliber smoothbore cartridges were also buck and ball. Interestingly, one

of the three buckshot in the carbine or fusil cartridge was oversized and falls into our "large buckshot" category. Three such buckshot would not have fit a fusil bore.

The 28 unfired large buckshot from Star Fort might have had one of two functions. First, they may have been buckshot in .75 caliber buck and ball cartridges, where three buckshot might fit the bore on a common plane, perpendicular to the barrel. I have found that the British in the Southern Campaign did not normally use buck and ball in .75 caliber weapons, but exceptions are certainly possible. The more likely function for the large buckshot is

simply as buckshot fired from a musket, without a musket ball. There are four different reasonably related clusters of these large buckshot ranging from four to 10 specimens; the sizes are mixed within these groups, and they lack close association with unfired .75 caliber balls. It is possible that heavy buckshot was deliberately chosen as a more effective load for the very close combat anticipated when the Americans rushed the fort. Use of heavy buckshot loads in muskets is documented from elsewhere in the Southern Campaign, notably by Francis Marion's command. Also supporting this idea is a neatly cut segment of a musket ball that was probably intended as "buckshot." This expedient has been noted elsewhere, including the interior of British Fort Watson, whose defenders also anticipated a direct assault. As noted above, the sorting of the larger "large buckshot" from smaller rifle balls was problematic, and an arbitrary cutoff employed. While some smaller rifle balls may actually be buckshot, there are certainly some unfired rifle balls from within Star Fort, possibly as many as 14. This is in agreement with the documented use of rifles by the defenders of Star Fort. Other ammunition artifacts left behind by the defenders of Star Fort include two sprues from casting large lead shot, and puddles of melted lead, including two specimens that exhibit portions of melted balls. The sprues indicate that some ammunition, at least, was being manufactured on site. By the latter years of the Revolution, regular troops on both sides were typically supplied with factory (or "laboratory") made musket cartridges, while troops with less standardized arms still prepared their own ammunition. Francis Marion, for example, requested supplies of lead and powder for his command, rather than prepared cartridges.

Figure 7 shows the 64 *fired* lead shot from within Star Fort sorted into my six categories. Most of these balls were probably fired by the Americans into the fort, but other causes may have deposited a few of them there, including test firing, accidental discharge, animal butchering, etc. The collection is dominated by 35 smaller

buckshot in the size range appropriate for .69 caliber buck and ball cartridges. This proportion would be even larger but for the same collection bias discussed above, given that 10 fired musket balls were recovered in metal detecting, but not a single buckshot. Altogether, 14 fired .69 caliber musket balls were recovered. The two “British” categories among the unfired lead shot above, including large buckshot and .75 caliber musket balls, are nearly absent from the fired collection with only one example each. Nine fired rifle balls represent the intense American rifle fire from their siege tower that dominated the interior of Star Fort in daylight. The evidence for American fire into the Star Fort satisfies preconceived notions that this fire was predominately rifle and .69 caliber musket fire.

What weapons were actually fired at the Americans is better reflected in the collections of fired lead shot from *outside* of the fort. In this case, I had three substantial collections to study, including our own and two from much earlier projects, all from the area around Star Fort and among the American siege approaches. The two earlier collections were curated at SCIAA for many years, and I analyzed them before they were sent to the National Park Service for permanent curation. This group of col-

lections is interesting not only for what it tells us about small arms use at Star Fort, but also for what it confirms about various recovery methods for lead shot on that site. Each collection represents a completely different method. William Edwards’ test trenches in 1961 were screened, while the extensive feature exposure conducted by Holschlag and Rodeffer (1973-75) apparently relied on visual recovery alone in the course of flat shoveling and troweling. Our own work outside of Star Fort consisted entirely of metal detecting, which as we have seen, seriously underrepresents smaller shot. The comparison of results in Figure 8 speaks for itself. This significant deficiency in our metal detecting results should not be overemphasized or generally extrapolated to other sites. We found the soil mineral conditions at Ninety Six to be unusually difficult, such that our depth of detection was noticeably poor from the start. Our metal detector coverage blocks at Star Fort are unbalanced samples, with bias toward larger shot.

In any case, I analyzed a total of 16 unfired and 92 fired specimens from the three projects outside of Star Fort. In assigning the lead shot to one side or the other, the few unfired balls outside of the fort could be reasonably assigned to American use, but the fired balls are less certainly British



Figure 10: Freshly excavated arms artifacts recovered from Star Fort, May 2018, during the USC Maymester field school. This group includes a British musket ramrod pipe, American canister balls, fired lead shot, a British bayonet scabbard tip, and a French spall musket flint. (Photo by James Legg)

outgoing fire. Some unknown portion of the balls from near Star Fort probably represent American under shots, over shots, or ricochets. With all of that in mind, the overall collection still has some coherence when used in conjunction with Figures 6 and 7. We can see outgoing British fire in the heavy proportions of large buckshot and .75 caliber musket balls. Heavy rifle fire from Star Fort is also well represented. The anomaly in the group is perhaps the strong proportion of .69 caliber musket fire represented by balls and buckshot, although that caliber is still outnumbered by .75 caliber fire by 20 to 17. As in the interior of Star Fort, there are no major surprises in the “outside” group, whether we consider it substantially defensive fire, or mixed. The weapons represented by unfired ammunition and gun parts within Star Fort are also represented in the fired ammunition from outside of the fort.

These findings concerning small arms use in the 1781 Siege of Star Fort are not particularly surprising. However, the preconceived notions that were substantially satisfied have been constructed over a period of several decades of recovery and analysis of small arms material from the Southern Campaign, as well as the study of existing collections and the documentary record. It appears that we are beginning to learn something.



Figure 9: Fired and unfired lead shot from the American siege approaches north of Star Fort, excavated by Stephanie Holschlag and Michael Rodeffer in 1973-75. A British iron canister ball is at upper left. (Photo by James Legg)

Numismatic History of the Charlesfort/Santa Elena Site: The Plantation Era

By Heathley A. Johnson

In all of the excavations across the Charlesfort/Santa Elena multi-component site on Parris Island, S.C., a common personal possession that has been found in varying frequencies are coins. The majority of the coins that have been found date to the early 20th-century, from the U.S. Marine Corps World War I era “Maneuver Grounds” training complex. Only a few coins dating to the 16th-century Spanish occupation or the 18th and 19th-century Plantation era occupation have been recovered. This article focuses on the Plantation era coins and what they can tell us about the early numismatic history of colonial and post-colonial America at the site.

During the early history of America, coinage was always in short supply, mostly due to the negligence of England to provide coins for the colonies. To overcome this lack, colonists freely used the coinage of foreign countries, minted their own coins or tokens, or used privately minted coins produced in England for use in America. While this satisfied some of the need, there was still a shortage of coins, especially in small denominations. The use of a variety of coins and tokens created additional issues, such as having disparate values in different parts of the country. Even after America won independence from England in the Revolutionary War, relief from the troubles with coinage was not resolved quickly. The United States Mint was not established until 1792, and it would be decades before the mint was

able to put enough coins in circulation to meet demand. As America struggled with finding the correct balance between coin denominations and metallic compositions, foreign coinage still circulated as legal tender until its use was banned in 1857.

Excavations at the Charlesfort/Santa Elena site have revealed two areas with high concentrations of artifacts from the Parris/Barnwell/Means plantation complex—around the golf course clubhouse and near the Spanish Fort San Felipe (I) (see DePratter et al. 2016). While there are artifacts and features from across the site dating to this period, it is from these two areas that all of the coins under discussion have been recovered. A total of seven coins dating from between 1735 and 1862 have been found, with one of these coins coming from England, two from the Spanish colonial mint in Mexico City, while the remaining four are of regular U.S. mintage (Table 1). The 1735 farthing, 1786 real, and 1852 three-cent coins were all recovered from excavations near the golf course clubhouse, where an early-18th to mid-19th-century slave settlement was located (Figure 1). The 1814 real, 1854 one-cent, 1858 one-cent, and 1862 one-dollar coins were found in excavations centered around Fort San Felipe (I), where the main plantation complex was likely located (Figure 2).

The study of coins in archaeology has a long history, but one that to a large degree has been mainly descriptive, with the primary benefit seen as providing a means

of dating features. In recent decades, however, researchers have been looking into what else coins can inform upon when they are used in ways beyond their primary role as a medium of exchange (e.g., Burström 2018; Haselgrove and Krmnecik 2016; Kemmers and Myrberg 2011). What then does the collection of Plantation era coins from the site have to tell us?

Given the number of coins that have been recovered, what can be learned from them is limited. The small sample size is an indication that the plantation residents had few coins, which is not completely surprising, since the plantation was on an isolated island occupied mostly by slaves. However, the sample size could also be reflective of sample bias. The area to the west of Fort San Felipe (I), which has the densest concentration of plantation era artifacts at the site as revealed in the Santa Elena boundary survey, has only been sampled through shovel tests (DePratter and South 1995:60). Were larger-scale excavations be conducted in this area, perhaps more coins would be found.

All of the coins were recovered from the upper mixed-context levels of excavation units. This suggests that they were simply lost and not deliberately placed with a specific purpose in mind, such as within the foundations of a structure in a ritualistic context. Nor are any of the coins pierced to facilitate suspension, which would be an indication that they had been transformed into charms or items of symbolic significance. In looking at the coins, it is interesting to note that the three from around the clubhouse are worn to a much higher degree than the four from near Fort San Felipe (I), suggesting that they circulated for a greater amount of time before being lost. Finally, the coins from around Fort San Felipe (I) may have belonged to and been lost by soldiers of a Federal picket camp during the Civil War, as the same area

Issuing Country	Mintage Date	Denomination
England	1735	1 farthing
Spain (Mexico City mint)	1786	1 real
Spain (Mexico City mint)	1814	1 real
U.S.A.	1852	3 cents
U.S.A.	1854	1 cent (large)
U.S.A.	1858	1 cent (small)
U.S.A.	1862	1 dollar

Table 1: List of Plantation era coins from Charlesfort/Santa Elena. (Table by Heathley Johnson)



A



B



C



Figure 1: Charlesfort/Santa Elena Plantation era coins from the club house vicinity. A) 1735 British farthing, B) 1786 Spanish 1 real, C) 1852 United States three cent. (Photo by Heathley Johnson)



A



B



C



D



Figure 2: Charlesfort/Santa Elena Plantation era coins from the Fort San Felipe (I) vicinity. A) 1814 Spanish 1 real, B) 1854 United States one cent, C) 1858 United States one cent, D) 1862 United States one dollar. (Photo by Heathley Johnson)

has produced a number of other artifacts related to such a camp.

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A New Mound at Mulberry

By Adam King, Chris Judge, and Gail Wagner

Fieldwork at the famous Mississippian mound town of Mulberry (38KE12) began in the spring of 2018, thanks to funding from Duke Energy and input from the South Carolina archaeological community and Indigenous descendant communities. One of the first things we did at the site was have Chet Walker of Archaeo-Geophysical Associates conduct a gradiometer survey of areas cleared of trees and undergrowth. The gradiometer measures small changes in magnetism below the ground from one location to the next. While this sounds like a fancy metal detector, it is much more. The gradiometer can detect very subtle changes in magnetism beneath the ground caused by the presence of large rocks, refilled holes, differences in the kinds of soils present, burning, and other human activities.

Under the right conditions, a gradiometer can detect a wide variety of different kinds of archaeological features buried beneath the ground because of their subtle magnetic signatures. However, it is

important to know that the gradiometer cannot detect every archaeological feature present at a site. At the same time, not every “magnetic anomaly” detected by a gradiometer is necessarily something created by people. This is one of the reasons why targeted archaeological excavations follow gradiometer surveys. Excavations also produce information that the gradiometer cannot, including information on the dating and use of features inferred from associated artifacts.

The results of our gradiometer survey at Mulberry revealed the presence of a large number of possible archaeological features including buildings and activities associated with mound construction and use. One of the most interesting anomalies detected by Walker was a large (18m by 12m) rectangular feature located between the mound precinct and the village area (Figure 1). The nature of the anomaly resembled those of Mississippian buildings, although this one is larger than regular residences. The anomaly

is also located in an area where small, plowed down mounds may have once stood. Blanding’s (1848) description of Mulberry in 1806 included as many as eight small earthen mounds that ringed one of the larger mounds (Figure 2). Only one of those mounds was recorded by archaeologists before it was destroyed (Thomas 1894; Wagner 2002), and the rest, if they existed, are not visible at the site today. Given the shape of this anomaly and its location, we suspected it was either a large building or possibly an earthen mound remnant.

During the summer of 2020, a crew from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (and many volunteers) under the direction of Gail Wagner and Adam King conducted excavations at Mulberry and spent time investigating this unique anomaly. To protect staff and crew from the pandemic, university-approved protocols were followed, including the use of masks at all times on the site, insuring workers used only their own tools, social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting all equipment daily. Although some workdays were lost as precautionary testing took place, no one associated with the project became infected by the virus.

To investigate the anomaly, two one-meter wide trenches were excavated on the eastern and western sides of the anomaly. Each trench was positioned to intersect a portion of the anomaly, as well as test areas both inside and outside. As we excavated, we found that the magnetic anomaly was visible as areas of dark brown soil (Figure 3), which we hypothesized might be parts of either a shallow ditch or trench dug to place a wall. However, instead of the dark stains diving down into the soil profile (as expected of some kind of trench or ditch), they sloped gradually to the outside of the anomaly and ended abruptly at the interior of the anomaly. Additionally, we found that those dark stains actually were made up of a series of sloping layers of

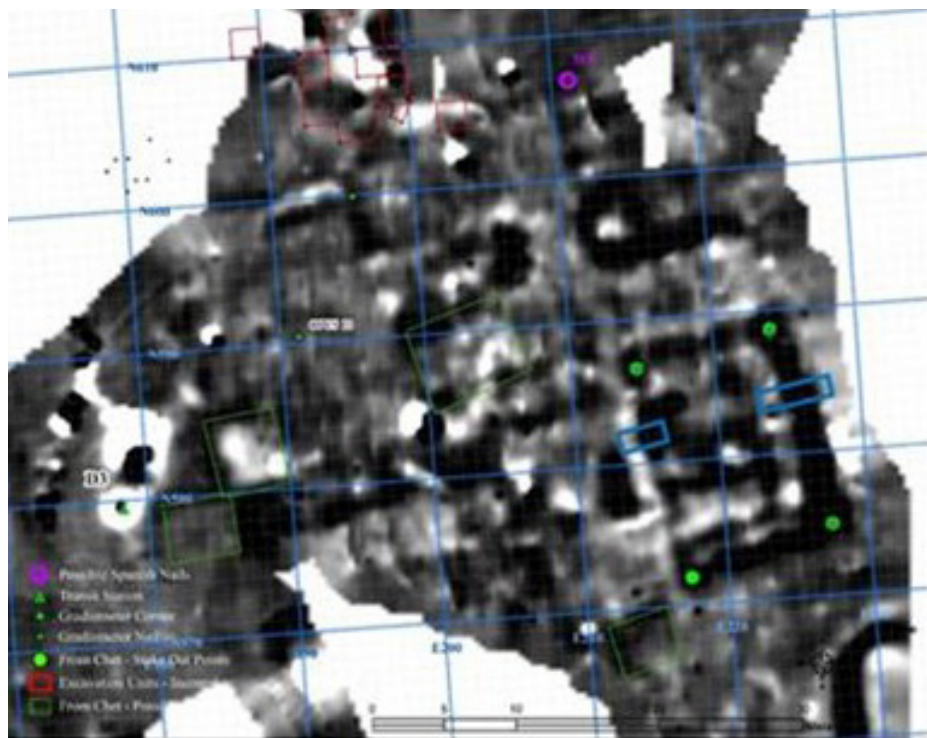


Figure 1: Gradiometer Map. Large anomaly marked with green dots at the corners; profile trenches in blue. (Map by Chet Walker)

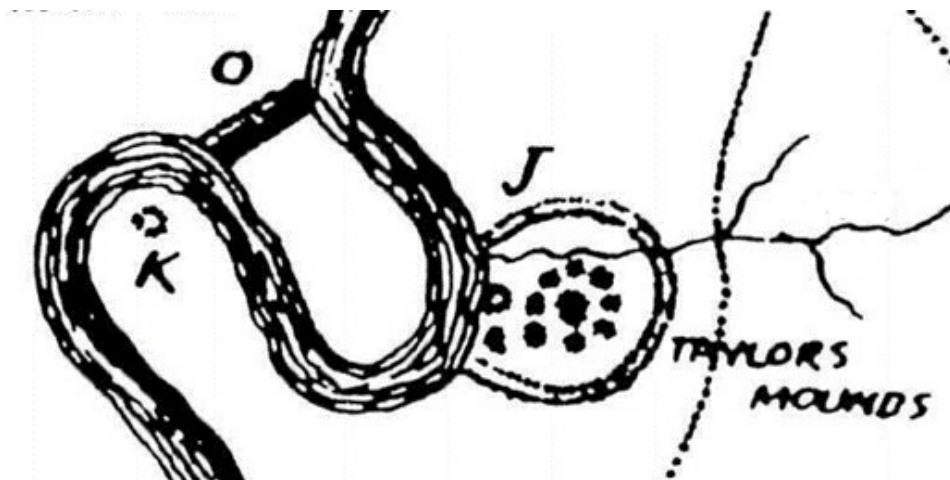


Figure 2: Blanding's 1806 Map of the Mulberry site.

soils of different colors (Figure 4).

This suggested to us that the dark rectangle detected by the gradiometer was a perimeter of soils piled up against something. Some Mississippian buildings had earth banked against the outer side of their walls, presumably to help stabilize the wall and insulate the interior from the summer heat and winter cold. If our anomaly was a large earth-embanked building, we would expect to find the remains of a wall just inside of the encircling soils. When we excavated more deeply on the inside of the anomaly, we found no posts or wall-trenches on either side. Instead, on the interior we found fill soils that had very few artifacts in them (Figure 5). This leaves us with only one likely possibility. The anomaly is the remains of a small earthen mound whose summit had been destroyed, most likely by plowing in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The rectangular anomaly detected by Walker was created by the difference between the soils used to build the flanks and summit of the mound and those inside and on the outer perimeter of the mound. Because disturbances had removed the summit made from the same soil, what was left was parts of the sloping flanks of the mound. What looked like walls or a ditch in the gradiometer data was actually the edges of one of Blanding's small mounds, which we have named Mound D (Mulberry already has Mounds A through C).

Dating the construction of the mound is an important part of understanding the

larger history of Mulberry. On the inside of the anomaly crews recorded a fairly rich midden that was deposited before the mound was built. The pottery recovered from the midden appears to be associated with the Adamson or Town Creek phases in the Wateree Valley, dating it to the 13th century (Cable 2020), and possibly into the early 14th century (DePratter and Judge 1990). Also found beneath the mound were two burned corncob filled features that likely served to produce smoky fires for curing hides, water-proofing pottery, or keeping bugs away. Radiocarbon dates obtained from the carbonized corn will enable us to securely date the deposits that predate the mound.

Just a meter beyond the western flank of the mound, crews encountered a unique feature that also predates the mound. Only a portion was exposed by our trench,

revealing what appears to be a pit that was packed with large pieces of as many as 10 pottery vessels—all large jars. The sherds were so tightly packed into the feature that little to no soil separated one flat-lying sherd from another. It appears as if a series of vessels were broken into large pieces, stacked in the feature, and then buried. The only other artifact found in the feature is a fragment of a finely-made chunkee stone that likely came from eastern Tennessee based on style and raw material (David H. Dye personal communication, 2020). Like the pottery from the pre-mound midden, based on decoration the vessels date to the Adamson and Town Creek phases.

One of the vessels packed into the feature had the Wateree Bug adorno attached below the rim at what we presume to be four opposed locations around the vessel. As we have suggested previously (see *Legacy* September 2020), the Wateree Bug may make reference to powers associated with water and Beneath Realm of the cosmos. The treatment of these vessels leads us to hypothesize that they were not regular vessels, but instead containers used for a special purpose that warranted special disposal. Because of this, we have collected samples from the interiors of the vessels, which will be analyzed for residues from known sacred plants like yaupon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), Datura (*Datura stramonium*), willow (*Salix* spp), and button snakeroot (*Eryngium*



Figure 3: Eastern side of Magnetic Anomaly, facing south. Mound fill to left of center. (Drone photo by William C. Judge)



Figure 4: Trench on the Western side of the Magnetic Anomaly. (Photo by Chris Judge)

yuccifolium).

The midden and its features help us understand when construction on the mound could have started. Unfortunately, artifacts found within the mound fill were relatively rare and difficult to interpret. The latter is the case because the dirt used to build the mound was likely taken from another part of the site, so any artifacts found in it could date to any period before or during the mound's construction. With that in mind, we bring up three very intriguing pottery sherds that were recovered in the fill of the mound and off its eastern flank. These sherds do not look like the same kind of pottery made by the Indigenous inhabitants of Mulberry but have characteristics that may associate them with later Spanish visits to the area.

While we may have learned that Walker's anomaly is the remnant of a small mound, we have yet to fully understand its construction history. We know that Mulberry's inhabitants started building it sometime after CE 1250, but we have yet to determine exactly when construction started, when it ceased, and whether those events were related to 16th century Spanish visits to the valley. Just as interesting are the anomalies detected by Walker on the inside of the large anomaly we tested (see Figure 1). Presumably these represent

features that predate the building of the mound. To understand these, we need to extend our excavation trenches further toward the center of the mound. Maybe more important, Walker captured a portion of a similar large, rounded-rectangular anomaly just to the south of Mound D. The entire anomaly was not detected since the gradiometer survey was stopped because the area was covered in a pine tree plantation. We suspect it represents the flanks of another one of Blanding's small mounds. Only further testing will confirm this.

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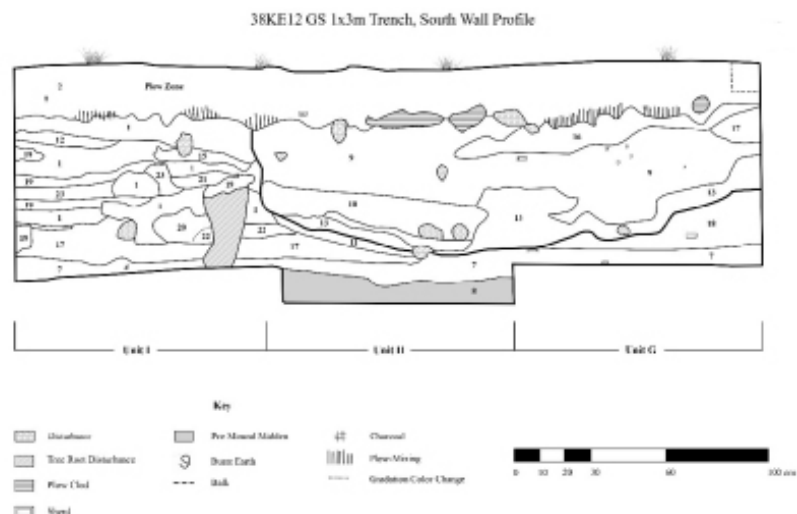


Figure 5: Mound D 1 X 3-meter trench, south profile. Mounded soil blocks in I, large pit in G-H, pre-mound midden in gray.

ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Exploring the Hidden Heritage of the Palmetto State

Edited by Adam King

Adam King's *Archaeology in South Carolina* contains an overview of the fascinating archaeological research currently ongoing in the Palmetto State and features essays by twenty scholars studying South Carolina's past through archaeological research. The scholarly contributions are enhanced by more than one hundred black-and-white and thirty-eight color images of some of the most important and interesting sites and artifacts found in the state.

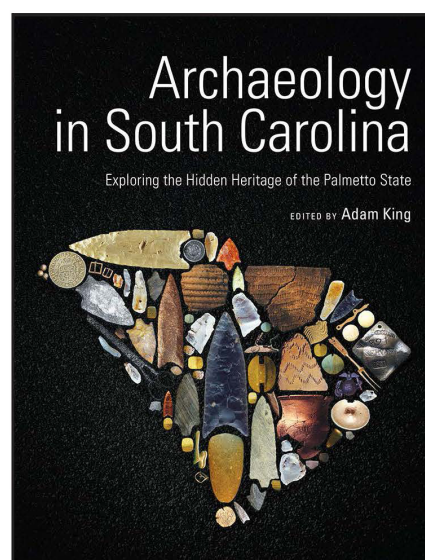
South Carolina has an extraordinarily rich history encompassing some of the first human habitations of North America as well as the lives of people at the dawn of the modern era. King begins the anthology with the basic hows and whys of archaeology and introduces readers to the current issues influencing the field of research. The contributors are all recognized experts from universities, state agencies, and private consulting firms, reflecting the diversity of people and institutions that engage in archaeology.

The volume begins with investigations of some of the earliest Paleo-Indian and Native American cultures that thrived in South Carolina, including work at the Topper Site along the Savannah River. Other essays explore the creation of early communities at the Stallings Island site, the emergence of large and complex Native American polities before the coming of Europeans, the impact of the coming of European settlers on Native American groups along the Savannah River, and the archaeology of the Yamasee, a people whose history is tightly bound to the emerging European society.

The focus then shifts to Euro-Americans with an examination of a long-term project seeking to understand George Galphin's trading post established on the Savannah River in the eighteenth century.

The volume concludes with the recollections of a life spent in the field by South Carolina's preeminent historical archaeologist Stanley South, now retired from the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of South Carolina.

March 2015, 304 pages, 38 color and 103 b&w illus.



Adam King is a research associate professor in the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and special projects archaeologist for the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program at the University of South Carolina. King has conducted research in the Southeast since 1987 and specializes in the Mississippian period and the political economies of chiefdoms. He is the author of *Etowah: The Political History of a Chiefdom Capital*.

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Maritime Research

MRD Research Features in National Geographic TV Channel *Drain the Oceans—Raiders of the Civil War Season 3*

By James Spirek

Sitting on the couch after watching a couple of episodes of *Drain the Oceans* on the National Geographic TV Channel and learning that the Confederate submarine *H.L. Hunley* along with a few colleagues were going to feature in an upcoming one, I wondered when our turn would come to showcase some of our work on the program. Not but a few days afterwards, I received an email from one of the show's directors seeking information about potential shipwrecks around Charleston Harbor. They were casting about for an upcoming Season 3 episode focusing on Civil War naval strategies. My wonders were answered!

For those readers not familiar with the show, the premise is simple: what would a drained ocean reveal and what could be learned by exposing the great archaeological storehouse on the seafloor and bottoms of other waterbodies? The

show sought to answer these and other questions by digitally draining the water and re-creating the events leading to the demise of the shipwreck, sunken city, or other cultural tragedy or natural calamity, interspersed with expert commentary by archaeologists, historians, and others. Typically, the program progresses by piecing the story together for the audience until revealing the answer or hypothesis with the Computer Graphic Imagery (CGI) re-creations.

Commissioned by National Geographic, the show is produced by Mallinson Sadler Productions, a film documentary company based in the United Kingdom. The program airs worldwide on the NatGeo TV channel. The DTO production team looks for archaeological sites that are well-documented, have good visuals, and an interesting or compelling narrative. In preparing for the segment, we

forwarded archaeological reports, historic images, and other materials to assist the production team with identifying possible storylines and scenery. Underwater video shot during our projects was also provided to gather a sense of site characteristics to assist in developing the CGI graphics to reconstruct the shipwrecks. After reviewing the materials, Tom Cebula, the director, settled on a tentative storyline featuring sunken Federal ironclads, Confederate blockade runners, and the two Stone Fleets.

To maximize time on the water and in the event of inclement weather, we prepared several animated graphics using previously obtained remote-sensing data to resemble real-time data acquisition for filming purposes. For example, using Powerpoint we animated a sonar image of a wreck to scroll on the computer screen as if actually acquiring the acoustic data. A similar graphic was also prepared for the magnetometer data. That way, if rough seas or time precluded operations at a specific site, the pretense of having been there was maintained. Scrolling images of acoustic and magnetic data were prepared just in case for the sunken Federal ironclad *Keokuk*, one of the First Stone Fleet ballast mounds, and the two blockade runners *Georgiana* and *Mary Bowers*.

In early August 2019, we headed to Charleston to meet the DTO film crew composed of Tom Cebula, the producer/director; Sophie Howard, assistant producer; Julius Brighton, cameraman; and Neil Kent, sound technician. At the hotel that evening, we reviewed the shooting schedule for a tight two-day timeline. In the morning, we all rendezvoused at the Wappoo Cut Boat Landing in Charleston to load the crew and gear aboard and headed out to sea towards the First Stone Fleet wrecks off Morris Island (Figure



Figure 1: The MRD and DTO crew in the boat cabin from (left to right): Sophie Howard, Neil Kent (back to camera), Ryan Bradley (MRD), Julius Brighton, and Director Tom Cebula. (SCIAA photo)



Figure 2: James Spirek guiding survey operations with Julius Brighton, the cameraman filming on the bow. (SCIAA photo)

1). Fortunately, the weather and waves proved camera-friendly. Ryan Bradley and I went through our usual routines of setting up a survey, including steering the boat on survey lanes and deploying the magnetometer sensor, although unusually tossing and retrieving the sensor multiple times to get the perfect shot (Figure 2). As the data scrolled on the computer screens, we provided commentary and were often reminded by Tom Cebula to point with our fingers at the screen to draw the future TV audience towards the “action.” Following the survey sequence, I donned my SCUBA gear, and pantomimed rolling over the side into the water with a cleverly angled camera shot. The director said there was no need for me to get wet.

Completing this portion of the filming, we headed over to the S.C. Department of Natural Resources boat basin on James Island for a late lunch. There we met a drone operator, who had the previous year worked with the company on the *Hunley* segment. He was contracted to shoot aerial imagery of the boat plying survey lanes, while deploying the magnetometer sensor. Threatening, dark storm clouds looming over Charleston added a sense of urgency to complete this phase of the filming. The director suggested staying in the harbor

channel near Fort Sumter and directed the drone operator to focus tight on the boat to make it appear the surveying operations were occurring further offshore. Fortunately, the winds and rains held off and the drone operator quickly and skillfully gathered the desired footage. Returning to the boat basin, the bottom finally dropped out of the clouds forcing the boat to slow to a crawl before the rain

passed. That completed the “on the water” and first day of filming.

Filming the following day took place at our office in the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston. The DTO team turned Nate’s office into a studio with lights, microphone booms, cameras on rails, and other varied recording equipment. At this time, the storyline began to take shape by focusing more on the First Stone Fleet. Here, attention was drawn to simulating work analyzing historical data, examining a piece of granite from one of the ballast mounds, and discussing the purpose and effect of sinking the stone fleet in an attempt to obstruct blockade running at Charleston Harbor (Figure 3). After a few takes or so, Tom called a wrap having gotten the desired footage and commentary. Following a nice lunch, the two crews went their separate ways—MRD back to Columbia and the DTO folks off to Bermuda to film another segment of the episode focused on a sunken blockade runner bound to Charleston.

Returned to London, Tom Cebula and the production team began to hone and finalize the script and the CGI aspects of the episode. Tom sent our section of the proposed script to fact-check and to review the story sequence for accuracy, which



Figure 3: James Spirek studiously replicating laptop research surrounded by sound, camera, and lights. (SCIAA photo)



Figure 4: Rough CGI image of a ballast mound with rocks removed to reveal the wooden hull of a scuttled First Stone Fleet vessel. (Courtesy of Mallinson Sadler Productions)

only required a tweak or two. This was soon followed by the CGI reconstructions for review (Figures 4 and 5). The images only required a few minor corrections, including refining the two stone fleet locations on the map and the overall distribution of the ballast mounds. I was surprised by the speed by which the production took place and by mid-October 2020 the episode was completed. Tom and Sophie moved on to other projects,

while we waited for the episode to appear during Season 3 debuting in late 2019 and running through early 2020.

Our segment featured in the one-hour episode—*Raiders of the Civil War*, with a storyline centered on Union naval efforts to subdue the rebellion and Confederate countermeasures to evade the blockade and take the battle to the U.S. merchant marine. The episode opened with the wreck of the *USS Maple Leaf*, a military

transport sunk by a torpedo in the St. Mary's River in Jacksonville, Florida, followed by the Stone Fleet segment, next by the sunken blockade runner in Bermuda, and concluded with the wreck of the Confederate high seas raider *CSS Alabama* off Cherbourg, France. The segments and narration were interspersed with expert commentary by Dr. James Delgado, the host of the program, and Dr. Craig Symonds, a noted naval historian. The show originally aired in June 2020 and is now available as re-runs on National Geographic TV channel or streaming on-demand at Disney+.

Working with the DTO folks went smoothly, and we found that they were determined to ensure that the historical and archaeological aspects of our research were accurately portrayed in the script and re-creations. We were quite happy with how the segment turned out and looked at this as a public educational opportunity to reach a broad audience to highlight the maritime archaeological legacy in the lakes, rivers, and coastal waters of South Carolina. I already have a few other ideas to pitch to the producers!

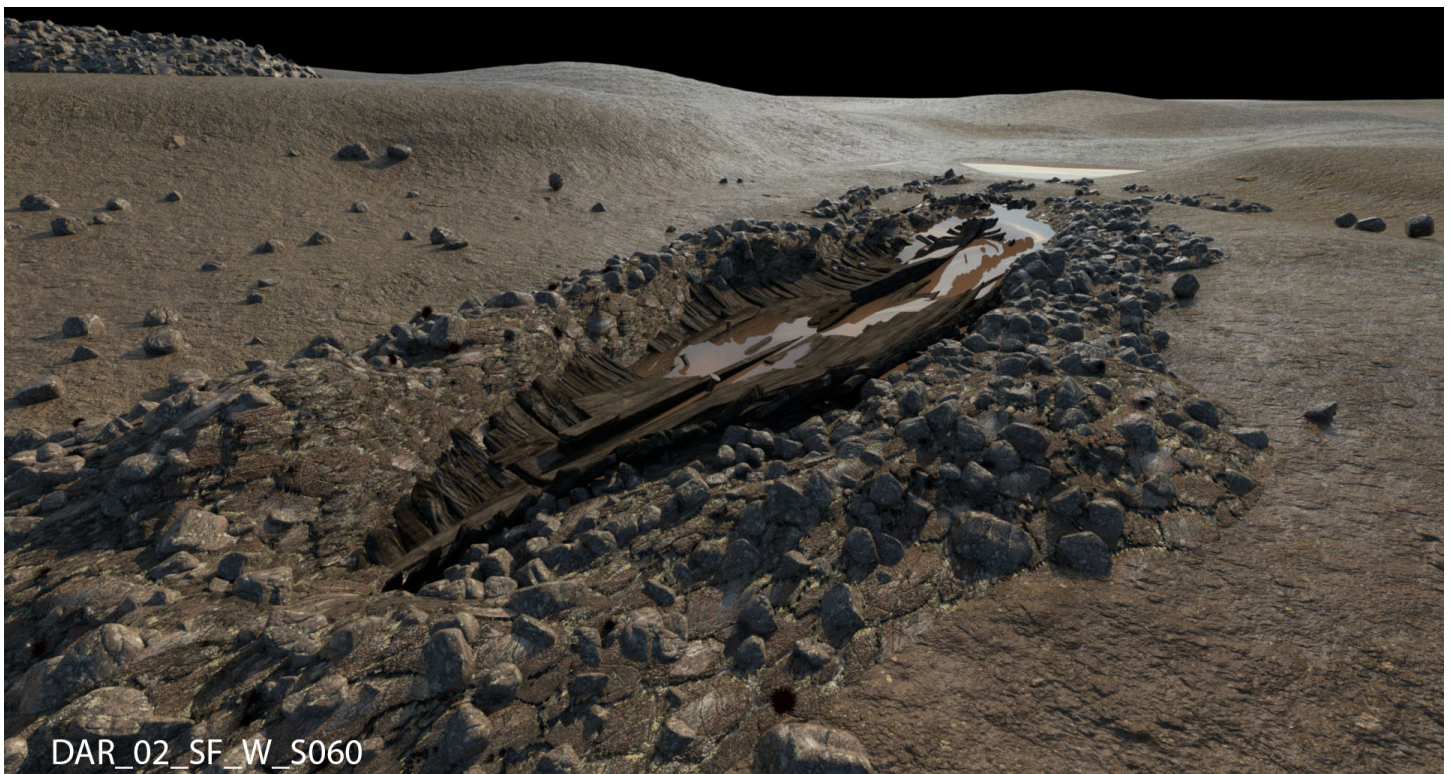


Figure 5: Nearly finalized CGI image of the ballast stones removed to reveal buried wooden hull of a First Stone Fleet vessel. (Courtesy of Mallinson Sadler Productions)

Savannah River Archaeology

Public Outreach In the Time of Covid

By George Wingard; Program Coordinator, Savannah River Archaeological Research Program

The Savannah River Archaeological Research Program (SRARP) is located on the Savannah River Site (SRS), a Department of Energy (DOE) managed facility encompassing portions of Aiken, Barnwell, and Allendale counties in South Carolina. This 212,000-acre area is home to nearly 13,000 years of archaeological and cultural resources and protecting these resources is mission number one for the SRARP. Numbers two and three are research and public education/outreach.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the SRARP's mission is sharing what we do with the public. On average, each year SRARP participates in over 100 public education events. These events include conferences, local presentations, in-school visits, archaeology/history days, and tours of the Savannah River Site. Nearly 10,000 individuals are reached via our programs that certainly fulfill our mission of public education/outreach.

In mid-March 2020, the DOE closed the SRS due to concerns raised by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nearly all activities came to a complete stop on the SRS with daily archaeological compliance

activities, in this case overseeing continued United States Forest Service contractual management activities, being conducted via phone or zoom. Fortunately, most of the areas to be forested had already been cleared by SRARP staff prior to the SRS shutdown. Research was taken home by the staff, as well as the continued administrative duties. In-person public education and outreach was put on hold and is still limited in its scope.

Beginning in January 2020, I began production on a short film entitled, *The Life of an Artifact*, which followed the path of an innocuous glass bottle from its discovery through analyzing, curation, and its use as a tool for public education (Figure 1). Due to the pandemic, it was not completed until the SRARP returned to our on-site offices in mid-June 2020. This 15-minute film was shared via our website at www.SRARP.org, and our social media page—Facebook/Savannah River Archaeological Research Program.

The short film gained a lot of attention and was widely shared via social media. Soon, it was decided to make a series of short videos—a web series—discussing



Figure 2: Assistant Curator Haley Milner being filmed as part of the SRARP web-series, *More the Life of an Artifact*. (Photo by George Wingard)

various artifacts from the SRARP's vast collection. Utilizing both interesting artifacts and the SRARP staff, to date, we have created 13 videos with more to be produced in early 2021. Some of the artifacts discussed so far, include: Deptford Pottery, historic documents, tobacco tin tags, and a Clovis Point. One of the most viewed episodes describes various small, porcelain doll parts and is hosted by SRARP assistant curator Haley Milner (Figure 2). Jennifer Stewart, of the Oregon Antique Doll Study Club and the United Federation of Doll Clubs, helped to identify the doll and is also using the film as part of their outreach and public education. The series is called *More the Life of an Artifact* and can be found at www.SRARP.org under the web series tab.

This year the SRARP has had to adjust our mission and reinvent the way we present our mission of public education/outreach. We knew we had to continue to both fulfill our requirement to the Department of Energy (DOE), as well as to the public who are interested in local history and archaeology. The SRARP staff is hoping to return soon to in-person outreach but are also planning to continue filming the web-series and sharing our collection via social media.



Figure 1: Opening Credits for the SRARP short film *The Life of an Artifact*. (Photo by George Wingard)

SCIAA Annual Report

A New Feature in *Legacy*

In this issue, your editors are introducing a new regular feature, which will be an annual bibliography of publications, professional presentations, and other staff accomplishments such as exhibits, documentary films, and interviews, etc. We are not entirely settled on exactly what will be included—this time out we are not listing lectures or presentations to university classes or to the general public, and *Legacy* articles are excluded. Below is the inaugural effort, which is everything we could round up that was actually published or completed in 2020. There are three categories, including publications and reports, presentations, and everything else. Listings are alphabetical by the first author's name even if that person is not associated with SCIAA. Our staff members are in bold type.



Figure 1: SCIAA Applied Research Division archaeologists Tamara Wilson and Josh Chaplin at work at 38RD1488, on Fort Jackson (Young and Fisher 2020). (Photo by John Fisher)

Publications and Reports

Boudreaux, Edmond A. III, Charles R. Cobb, Emily Clark, **Chester B. DePratter**, **James B. Legg**, Brad R. Lieb, Allison M. Smith, and **Steven D. Smith**
2020 The Early Contact Period in the Black Prairie of Northeast Mississippi. In Edmond A. Boudreaux III, Maureen Meyers, and Jay Johnson, editors, *Contact, Colonialism, and Native Communities in the United States*, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Brooks, Mark J., Albert C. Goodyear, and Robert Austin
2020 Japanese Gardens Trailer Park, Pinellas County, Florida. *The Florida Anthropologist*, Volume 73, Number 4, December.

Costello, Robert C. and **Albert C.**

Goodyear

2019 [2020] A Chemical Method of Stain Removal Applied to Lithic Artifacts from Rivers in South Carolina and Florida: Cooper River (SC583) and Suwannee River (FL 409). *South Carolina Antiquities*, Volume 51.

Dawkes, Giles, and **John Fisher**

2020 From American Revolution to Civil War: The Fort of Castle Pinckney, Charleston, South Carolina. *Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology* (86).

Goodyear, Albert C.

2020 A Deptford Vessel from Pinellas County, Florida. *The Florida Anthropologist*, Volume 73, Number 4, December.

Goodyear, Albert C. and Mark J. Brooks

2019 [2020] A Last Glacial Maximum Radiocarbon Date From Snake Hole, Allendale County, South Carolina. *South Carolina Antiquities*, Volume 51.

Goodyear, Albert C., Andrew A. White, and Joseph E. Wilkinson

2019 [2020] Early Archaic Projectile Point Typologies in South Carolina: Are Side and Corner Notched Points Contemporary? *South Carolina Antiquities*, Volume 51.

King, Adam

2020 The Cahokian Diaspora, Etowah, and South Appalachian Mississippian. In Charles H. McNutt and Ryan M. Parish, editors, *Cahokia In Context: Hegemony and Diaspora*, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

King, Adam, Terry G. Powis, Jon Spenard, and Nilesh Gaikwad

2020 Exploring Ritual Through Absorbed Residues in the Pacbitun Region. In Terry G. Powis, Sheldon Skaggs, and George J. Micheletti, editors, *An Archaeological Reconstruction of Ancient Maya Life at*

Pacbitun, Belize, BAR International Series 2970, Archaeology of the Maya, Volume 4. BAR Publishing, Oxford.

Legg, James B.

2020 *A Metal Detector Survey on the Congaree Creek Battlefield: The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Congaree Creek Heritage Preserve*. Report submitted to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Heritage Trust Program, by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Legg, James B., Charles R. Cobb, Edmond A. Boudreaux, Brad R. Lieb, **Chester B. DePratter**, and **Steven D. Smith**

2020 The Stark Farm Enigma: Evidence of the Chicasa (Chikasha)-Soto Encounter in Mississippi? In Clay Mathers, editor, *Modeling Entradas: Sixteenth-Century Assemblages in North America*, University of Florida Press, Gainesville.

Smith, Steven D.

2020 Review of *Historical Archaeology of the Revolutionary War Encampments of Washington's Army*. Cosimo A. Sgarlata, David G. Orr, and Bethany A. Morrison, editors, 2019, University of Florida Press. In *Online American Antiquity*, Cambridge University Press.

Smith, Steven D., and **James B. Legg**

2020 *Metal Detecting Surveys at Stark Farms and Environs: Seasons 2018 and 2019*. Submitted to the Department of Heritage Preservation, Chickasaw Nation, by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Smith, Steven D., **James B. Legg**, Brock Shattuck, and **Jonathan Leader**

2020 *Summary Report of Excavations at the Suspected Location of Burch's Mill, 38FL503*. South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Spenard, Jon, **Adam King**, Terry G. Powis, and Nilesh Gaikwad

2020 A Toast to the Earth: The Social Role of Beverages in Pre-Hispanic Maya Cave Ritual at Pacbitun, Belize. In Traci Ardren, editor, *Her Cup for Sweet Cacao: The Social Uses of Food in Ancient Maya Society*. University of Texas Press, Austin.

Spirek, James, and **Jonathan Leader**

2020 CSS Pee Dee Cannon Conserved and Installed at Florence, SC. *The Artilleryman Magazine*, Volume 41, Number 2, Spring 2020.

Wolbach, Wendy S., Joanne P. Ballard, Paul A. Mayewski, Andrei Kurbatov, Ted E. Bunch, Malcolm A. LeCompte, Victor Adedeji, Isabel Israde-Alcántara, Richard B. Firestone, William C. Mahaney, Adrian L. Melott, **Christopher R. Moore**, William M. Napier, George A. Howard, Kenneth B. Tankersley, Brian C. Thomas, James H. Wittke, John R. Johnson, Siddhartha Mitra, James P. Kennett, Gunther Kletetschka, and Allen West

2020 Extraordinary Biomass-Burning Episode and Impact Winter Triggered by the Younger Dryas Cosmic Impact 12,800 Years Ago: A Reply. *Journal of Geology*, Volume 128, Number 1, January 2020.

Young, Stacey L.

2020 *Phase I Archaeological Survey of Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site, Union County, South Carolina*. Submitted to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism by Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

2020 *Phase I Archaeological Survey of 18 Acres at Cheraw State Park, Chesterfield County, South Carolina*. Submitted to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism by the Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.



Figure 2: SCIAA archaeologist Heathley Johnson at work on his MA thesis site on Hobcaw Barony (Johnson 2020). (Photo by Tamara Wilson)

Young, Stacey L. and **John Fisher**

2020 *Management Summary: National Register Evaluations for Five Late Discoveries and Curated Collections Maintenance for the Fort Jackson Cultural Resource Management Program Fort Jackson, Richland County, South Carolina*. Applied Research Division, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Young, Stacey L., Carl Steen, and **John Fisher**.

2020 *Phase I Archaeological Survey of 1,568 Acres at Fort Bragg, Hoke County, North Carolina*. Applied Research Division South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Presentations

Goodyear, Albert C.

2020 *Recent Findings of Ice Age Archaeology in South Carolina*. Lecture to the Explorers Club GPC January 6, 2020. Columbia, South Carolina.

Goodyear, Albert C., Andrew A. White, and Joseph E. Wilkinson
2020 *Studying the Early Archaic Period in South Carolina Using Existing Projectile Point Typologies*. Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference on South Carolina Archaeology, Columbia, February 15, 2020.

Legg, James B. and Steven D. Smith
2020 *American and British Ordnance from the 1781 Siege of Star Fort at Ninety Six, South Carolina*. 53rd Annual Conference of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Boston, Massachusetts.

Smith, Steven D.
2020 *Francis Marion at War: A Micro-Analysis of the Battle of Parker's Ferry, August 30, 1781*. Virtual American Revolution Symposium, South Carolina Archives & History Foundation, Columbia, November 14, 2020.

2020 *Francis Marion and the Snow's Island Community: Myth, History, and Archaeology*. Virtual Anthropology Colloquium, University of South Carolina Department of Anthropology, Columbia, October 29, 2020.

Spirek, James
2020 *Jettisoned: Recovery, Discovery, and History of the CSS Pee Dee Armament*. Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Boston, Massachusetts, January 10, 2020; also presented to the Archaeological Society of South Carolina Annual Conference, Columbia, February 15, 2020.

2020 *A Shared Piece of Ordnance: The IX-inch Dahlgren Aboard the Civil War Gunboats USS Southfield and CSS Pee Dee*. North Carolina Maritime History Council Virtual Conference, November 7, 2020.

2020 *Bunged up like the verist rathole: The Stone Fleet, 1861-1862*. History Forum of the Lowcountry, Coastal Discovery Museum, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, March 13, 2020.

Spirek, James, and Chester B. DePratter
2020 *Underwater Archaeology in the ACE Basin*. ACE Basin Research Symposium, Edisto Beach, South Carolina, March 4, 2020.

Other

Johnson, Heathley A.
2020 *Testing Metal Detector Methodology in Archaeology*. Master's thesis, Department of Anthropology, St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Legg, James B.
2020 Exhibit, *Archaeology at Star Fort, Ninety Six National Historic Site, 2018-2019*. Historic Camden Foundation Revolutionary War Field Day, Camden, South Carolina, November 7, 2020.

Spirek, James
2020 Television appearance, Charleston Harbor Stone Fleets segment, National Geographic TV *Drain the Oceans—Raiders of the Civil War* episode, June 9, 2020.

2020 Video interview, Hobby License Process and Sport Divers in South Carolina, Archaeological Society of South Carolina Archaeology Month, October 26, 2020.

Wingard, George
2020 Film, *We Came Along Way by Faith: Catholic Hill and St. James the Greater Catholic Church*. SRARP Film Series.

2020 Film, *Death Rides on Every Passing Breeze: A Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of Wesley United Methodist Church Cemetery*. SRARP Film Series.

2020 Film, *The Life of an Artifact*. SRARP Film Series.

2020 Video series, *More the Life of an Artifact*. SRARP Web Video Series, Nos. 1 to 13.



Figure 3: National Park Service Ranger Grey Wood with a freshly recovered American cannon ball from the 1781 siege of Star Fort, at Ninety Six National Historic Site (Legg and Smith 2020). (Photo by James Legg)

Historic Archaeology

A New Feature in *Legacy*

This page is the inaugural appearance of another new regular feature in Legacy, which we have chosen to call "Historic Archaeology." Each issue will feature an historic photograph related to South Carolina archaeology, with an extended caption identifying who, what, where and when.



This photo was taken on July 12, 1979, at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington D.C. The occasion was the announcement by SCIAA archeologist Stanley South that his recent testing project had confirmed the site of the Spanish town of Santa Elena (1566-1587) and a second fort on the site, Fort San Felipe. Shown, from left to right, are Stanley South (1928-2016), SCIAA Director Robert Stephenson (1919-1992), and 16th century Spanish historians Paul Hoffman and Eugene Lyon (1929-2020). National and international press coverage followed, and Stan South secured National Geographic funding for three field seasons at Santa Elena.

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*To honor Stan's many years of work, SCIAA has established The Stanley South Student Archaeological Research Fund to support undergraduate and graduate student research in archaeology by the University of South Carolina students. To endow the Stanley South Student Scholarship Fund, we need to raise \$25,000. Contributions can be made **online** by visiting: <https://giving.sc.edu/givenow.aspx>, or by check made payable to the USC Educational Foundation and mailed to: SCIAA—Stan South Fund, 1321 Pendleton Street, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208. You may also use the insert envelop in this issue of Legacy. Thank you so much for your support!*

